

# FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

## Staff

Minister – Rev. Tom Goebel  
Music Director – Ron Montgomery  
CCF Director – Sandra Brennan  
Secretary – Dona Sulzmann  
Custodian – Rosa Jennings

## Office Hours

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM Monday through Friday

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**First Christian Church**  
**627 Paul W. Bryant Drive**  
**Tuscaloosa, AL 35401**

# FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

*(Disciples of Christ)*

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## **APRIL 2013**

## **THE EPISTLE**

Greetings Faithful!

Sue and I have returned safely from Honduras, and give thanks to God for the eye-opening experience of our visit. Though we were there for only a week, it is taking us a few days to get readjusted to “normal life,” whatever normal is! And it is taking us a few days to deal with some “biological souvenirs” we brought home with us. We didn’t drink the water as repeatedly instructed, but that does not mean that we were immune from other kinds of biological critters.

I want to take a moment to explain the purpose of our trip and what it means for the future. Sue and I were invited to be 2 of 10 regional delegates to Honduras because of my position as the Chair of the Division of Mission Chair in the Alabama/Northwest Florida Region of the Disciples of Christ. In responding to Christ’s call for unity amongst churches from our “doorstep to the ends of the Earth,” our regional representatives determined that partnering with two trade schools and empowering seminarians for ministry in Honduras was a good fit for our region given it’s proximity to the US and the level of intense need.

I want to make a point very clear: this partnership is *in addition* to the ministries of giving already going on in our region and the US. We are making a “leap of faith” by adding this partnership in Honduras, but *it is not* taking anything away from the ministries being performed for the needy in our community or region. The region has an established budget for global ministries, so a good portion of the giving to Honduras will be drawn from already budgeted funds. Opportunities for giving to the ministry in Honduras in addition to the region’s budgeted funds will, of course, be available from time-to-time.

A little about the two groups we are partnering with: first, the seminarians. We are partnering with the Evangelical Reformed Church (Protestant) in Honduras. The seminary in San Pedro Sula (Northern Honduras) is attempting to increase the number of trained and educated



April 7      *Woodie Payne*  
*Muir Steward*  
**\*Pat Coleman**  
**\*Ken Largin**  
 Mike Largin  
 Kate Matheny

April 14      *Woodie Payne*  
*Muir Steward*  
**\*Alice Gibson**  
**\*Cindy Harris**  
 Brenda Tanner  
 Gary Tanner

April 21      *Woodie Payne*  
*Muir Steward*  
**\*Joe Duncan**  
**\*Brinley Hocutt**  
 Chris Largin  
 Kenny Sulzmann

April 28      *Woodie Payne*  
*Muir Steward*  
**\*Jon Atkinson**  
**\*Kim Farish**  
 Rosa Jennings  
 Steve Jennings

Liturgist:      Muir Steward

**Hope Circle** will meet at **9:30 am**  
**April 1<sup>st</sup>** at the church.

**Serendipity Circle** will meet at  
**5:30 pm** on **April 8<sup>th</sup>** at Moe's  
 downtown.

**Circle I** will meet at the church on  
**April 9<sup>th</sup>** at **10:00 am**.

General CWF will meet on **April**  
**15<sup>th</sup>** at **6:00 pm** at the church.  
 Serendipity Circle is hostess.  
 Bring a dish and join us.

**CMF Breakfast**  
**8:00 am**  
**April 14<sup>th</sup>**



Karen Barger  
 Coleman Berryhill  
 Wiley Hales  
 Letitia Roberts  
 Kenny Sulzmann  
 Muir Steward  
 Nelda Williams  
 Joan Woody



*Wiley Hales' address has changed to:*  
*Apt. 239, 2831 Highland Ave S,*  
*Birmingham, AL*  
*35205 (same place,*  
*different room).*





*(continued from front cover)*

pastors in Honduras to assure spiritual care as the country goes through these extremely difficult times. The majority of the country is Catholic by faith, so it is difficult for Protestant seminarians to find and attend a seminary. Most pastors are part-time and bi-vocational. Those desiring to become pastors simply lack the funds to attend seminary, even though the fees are only \$600 for THREE YEARS of schooling (in America that will get you about two credit hours of school)! The region is considering developing a student sponsorship program and perhaps some scholarships for seminarians. Next, we are partnering with two small trade schools. The principle of partnering with these schools is simple: give a person a fish and they eat for a day, but teach a person to fish and they eat for a lifetime. Because most Honduran citizens do not have the opportunity to go past the 8th grade in public schools before they must find work, most of the students in the trade schools are in their early teens. The value of a trade in Honduras is priceless, and the need to learn a trade at a young age to rise above extreme poverty is crucial. The schools teach the students trades that are useful locally, such as hairstyling, sewing, handcrafts, woodworking, cooking, auto mechanics, etc.

The goal for these schools is to become self-sustainable: as they grow and attain the proper equipment, they can open the schools up to receive work from the community for pay and keep the school financially afloat without outside assistance. Faith is such an important part of life in Honduras that even these trade schools are faith-based, and their operation is overseen by the regional church representatives. We are considering getting the schools updated equipment and tools and working with them to renovate their buildings and grounds. Also, there is a need for teachers (who know some Spanish) to go for extended stays and teach English as a second language. I will be giving a formal presentation on Honduras after the Easter season; I pray you will attend and get to know your new global partners in ministry. If global ministry is your passion, and you would like to help these groups, I invite you to contact me and we can chat about needs and expectations. May God add His blessing to this new partnership in Christ.

Tom

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	<b>1</b> Hope Circle 9:30  Chris Morrison	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Circle of Prayer 6:30 Choir 7:00	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Serendipity 5:30  Buddy Mason	<b>9</b> Circle I 10:00	<b>10</b> Circle of Prayer 6:30 Choir 7:00  Dexter Chiles	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>   Alice Gibson
<b>14</b> CMF Breakfast 8:00 Mission Council Small Groups 6:00	<b>15</b> Merrill Gardens 10:00 CWF 6:00	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Soup Kitchen 9:30 Circle of Prayer 6:30 Choir 7:00	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>   Dreydon Chiles	<b>20</b>   Louis Payne
<b>21</b>  Flynn Woods	<b>22</b>   Muir/Gordon Steward	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Circle of Prayer 6:30 Choir 7:00	<b>25</b> SAR Banquet 6:00	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	